

Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

1. *(currently amended)* A container for a medicament for use as an interchangeable cartridge in an inhaler, the container being gas-tight and liquid-tight, comprising:

a sealed-edge foil bag which is collapsible at a differential pressure below 300 hPa (300 mbar), wherein said foil bag plastically and irreversibly collapses in a predetermined manner such that said foil bag retains its initial length after emptying, said foil bag having at least one welded seam to seal the edges of said foil bag and close a first end of said foil bag;

a one-piece flange sealingly connected to a second end of said foil bag for closing said second end of said foil bag, said flange having a guide passage formed therein for sealingly fitting said container onto a discharge connection member of the inhaler; and

a pierceable membrane to seal said container whereby said pierceable membrane is pierced by the discharge connection member when said container is fitted onto the discharge connection member.

2. *(original)* The container according to claim 1, wherein said at least one welded seam is of a T-shaped configuration.

3. *(original)* The container according to claim 1, wherein said at least one welded seam is of a V-shaped configuration.

4. *(original)* The container according to claim 1, wherein said pierceable membrane is an integral portion of said flange and disposed at an end of or within said guide passage.

5. *(original)* The container according to claim 1, wherein said foil bag is made from a composite material comprising at least two layers.

6. *(original)* The container according to claim 5, wherein a first layer of said composite material includes a metal selected from the group consisting of aluminum, gold, and copper.

7. *(original)* The container according to claim 5, wherein said composite material comprises an inner foil of a plastic material and an outer foil of a metal material.

8. *(original)* The container according to claim 5, wherein said composite material comprises two foils of different plastic materials.

9. *(original)* The container according to claim 5, wherein said composite material comprises:

an inner foil made of a first plastic material,

a diffusion-tight central layer; and

an outer foil of a second plastic material, wherein the melting temperature of said second plastic material is higher than the melting temperature of said inner foil.

10. (*original*) The container according to claim 9, wherein said diffusion-tight central layer is made from a material selected from the group consisting of a plastic material, a metal material, a glass and a ceramic.

11. (*original*) The container according to claim 9, wherein said outer foil is made of polyethylene terephthalate.

12. (*original*) The container according to claim 9, wherein said inner foil is made of a polyethylene copolymer of ethylene-acrylic acid.

13. (*original*) The container according to claim 1, wherein said flange comprises a press fit within said guide passage.

14. (*original*) The container according to claim 13, wherein the press fit is a portion of said guide passage and comprises a smooth inside wall of an inside diameter of said guide passage which only slightly differs from an outside diameter of the discharge connection member.

15. (*original*) The container according to claim 13, further comprising a plurality of bulge portions on an inside wall of said guide passage.

16. (*original*) The container according to claim 15, wherein said plurality of bulge portions are of an elongate configuration and extend symmetrically in the axial direction of said guide passage

17. (*original*) The container according to claim 15, wherein said plurality of bulge portions form a plurality of ring portions on the inside wall of said guide passage.

18. (*original*) The container according to claim 15, wherein said plurality of bulge portions are of a helical configuration.

19. (*original*) A container for a medicament for use as an interchangeable cartridge in an inhaler, the container being gas-tight and liquid-tight, comprising:

a sealed-edge foil bag which is collapsible at a differential pressure below 300 hPa (300 mbar), wherein said foil bag plastically and irreversibly collapses in a predetermined manner such that said foil bag retains its initial length after emptying, said foil bag including:

a first welded seam for closing a first end of said foil bag, wherein said first welded seam extends substantially transversely with respect to the longitudinal direction of said foil bag,

a second welded seam for sealing a first edge of said foil bag, wherein said second welded seam extends at least partially in the longitudinal direction of said foil bag, and

a third welded seam for sealing a second edge of said foil bag, wherein said third welded seam extends at least partially in the longitudinal direction of said foil bag;

a one-piece flange sealingly connected to a second end of said foil bag for closing said second end of said foil bag, said flange being fish-like in form and having a guide passage formed therein for sealingly fitting said container onto a discharge connection member of the inhaler; and

a pierceable membrane to seal said container whereby said pierceable membrane is pierced by the discharge connection member when said container is fitted onto the discharge connection member, wherein said pierceable membrane is an integral portion of the flange and is disposed at an end of or within said guide passage.

20. (*original*) A propellant gas-free atomizer with a discharge connection member for dispensing medicament in inhalable metered doses, comprising:

a container including:

a sealed-edge foil bag which is collapsible at a differential pressure below 300 hPa (300 mbar), wherein said foil bag plastically and irreversibly collapses in a predetermined manner such that said foil bag retains its initial length after emptying, said foil bag having at least one welded seam to seal the edges of said foil bag and close a first end of said foil bag,

a flange sealingly connected to a second end of said foil bag for closing said second end of said foil bag, said flange having a guide passage formed therein for sealingly fitting said container onto the discharge connection member, and

a pierceable membrane to seal said container whereby said pierceable membrane is pierced by the discharge connection member when said container is fitted onto the discharge connection member, wherein said pierceable membrane is disposed at an end of or within said guide passage; and

an inhalable medicament preparation disposed in the container.

21. *(original)* The atomizer according to claim 20, wherein the medicament is taken in a dosage of 10 µl to 50 µl.

22. *(original)* The atomizer according to claim 20, wherein the medicament is taken in a dosage of 15 µl to 20 µl.

23. *(original)* The atomizer according to claim 20, wherein the medicament is in a solution of ethanol, water, or a mixture thereof.

24/ *(original)* The atomizer according to claim 20, wherein the medicament includes at least one active substance selected from the group consisting of one or more of the following: Berotec (fenoterol-hydrobromide; 1-(3,5-dihydroxyphenyl)-2-[[1-(4-hydroxybenzyl)-ethyl]-amino]-ethanol-hydrobromide), Atrovent (ipratropium bromide),

Berodual (combination of fenoterol-hydrobromide and ipratropium-bromide),

Salbutamol (or Albuterol), Combivent, Oxivent (oxitropium bromide), Ba 679

(tiotropium bromide), BEA 2108 (di-(2-thienyl)-glycol acid tropenol ester), Flunisolid,

Budesonid, Beclomethason.